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Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/64/99, A/64/121, A/64/123, A/64/130, A/64/277-S/2009/402 and A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: International drug control (*continued*) (A/64/120 and A/64/92-E/2009/98)

1. **Ms. Simovich** (Israel) said that trafficking in drugs, was a transnational crime, transcending politics, cultures and borders; thus the fight against that plague must be international. Disputes and differences must not be allowed to interfere with joint efforts by countries of a region to defend their borders against that threat to the fabric of each society.

2. Israel, a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and signatory of all three United Nations narcotics conventions, had been working towards strengthening its partnership with the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy. Several successful study visits had been organized between Israel and its neighbours from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt. The regional office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Cairo had facilitated a number of joint projects in the region.

3. As an example of research in drug control, a method for detecting cannabis fields by remote sensing had been developed. To allow drug control legislation to address rapid changes in the field, Israel had initiated measures to speed up inclusion of new substances in its Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. It had also established a Pharmaceutical Crime Unit to fight counterfeiting of drugs and cosmetic products and to monitor the sale of psychoactive substances for illicit purposes.

4. Treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse victims and their families also remained key goals. Treatment methods were tailored to the needs of specific groups, including new immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia, as well as Arabic-speaking addicts. Under the Municipality Law, local communities must establish treatment services and offer education and prevention activities. Special emphasis was also placed on alcohol consumption.

5. Terrorism was another threat the world was facing. Terrorists and drug traffickers often used the same methods and in many cases, profits from drug trafficking were used to finance terrorist activities. The fight against both types of traffickers in death should therefore be similar: firm, sophisticated and based on strong international cooperation. Just as no addict could overcome addiction without help, no country could manage the fight against drugs without the support of other concerned countries.

6. **Mr. Perez Alván** (Peru) said that despite the reported drop in worldwide production of heroin and cocaine, efforts to combat illicit drugs should be continued and intensified, especially in the light of the worsening global problem with amphetamine-type stimulants. Drug trafficking was unavoidably associated with violence and organized crime, and in several countries, with terrorist activities. It was a major cause of insecurity, through such related activities as money-laundering, arms trafficking, human trafficking and corruption. Further, the illicit production of coca was among major factors in the devastation of nature in Peru: in order to plant a hectare of coca, it was necessary to destroy three hectares of rainforest.

7. Drug trafficking should be fought on several fronts, with interdiction and eradication of illicit crops in tandem with preventive measures and implementation of alternative development programmes. Socio-economic measures to combat illicit drugs could include job creation, health-care services, access to education and respect for human rights.

8. Alternative development programmes were useful instruments in reducing the supply of illegal drugs while promoting the development of affected populations. The effectiveness of such programmes, however, depended on their ability to be self-sustaining in the long term, which required extensive planning and adequate financing. Developed countries, especially consumer countries, must place cooperation against drug trafficking high on their agendas for action, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. Unfortunately, the actual funding provided to Peru to combat illicit drugs had declined steadily since 2002, from $140 million to a projected $57 million for 2010.

9. His delegation requested UNODC to elaborate a report with updated statistics on the overall resources allocated through international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, focusing on donor sources, projects in progress and the identification of key

programmes to intensify cooperation with the countries most affected by the illicit production of drugs.

10. **Mr. El Mkhantar** (Morocco) said that, in accordance with its international commitments, his Government was in the process of harmonizing its domestic legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The reforms introduced had resulted in the adoption of a new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. As part of its national drug control strategy, Morocco had established a National Narcotic Drug Commission and a unit to coordinate efforts to combat illicit drugs. It was also making efforts to promote the development of its northern provinces, with the aim of reducing and eventually eradicating the cannabis crop in that region.

11. Morocco was committed to regional cooperation in drug control, which should be combined with appropriate international assistance. It had hosted the first ministerial meeting of African States on the Atlantic coast in August 2009, which had called for the establishment of a regional security mechanism that would also address illicit drug trafficking.

12. Morocco was also mobilizing all available resources to combat trafficking in migrants. Its national strategy centred on operational, legislative, institutional, socio-economic development and awareness-raising components. As a result of that strategy there had been a significant drop in clandestine migratory flows and trafficking networks had been forced to find other routes. In 2007, a more ambitious national strategy on trafficking in persons had been established with a broader vision that encompassed all facets of trafficking. Morocco attached particular importance to the Additional Protocol to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and commended the UNODC programme in support of the efforts of North African countries to combat illicit trafficking in migrants.

13. Concerning efforts to combat terrorist organizations, his Government saw security as the main condition for economic and social development. Accordingly, it had developed a 2008-2012 plan to consolidate its security sector both from a material and human resources standpoint.

14. However, while national strategies and implementation were essential to reduce the risk of transnational crime, such plans could not be effective without international support and appropriate technical assistance.

15. **Mr. Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that Ecuador condemned drug trafficking in all its forms and manifestations as an attack on human life and dignity. His Government placed priority on all actions to combat drug trafficking and organized crime, with strict observance of human rights and the norms of international law. Ecuador had made efforts to harmonize its domestic law with the international instruments to which it was party. UNODC had singled out its project to monitor shipping containers as one of the three most successful projects globally in 2008; that success was due to the strong commitment by the Government and law enforcement to fight illicit drug trafficking. Further, cultivation of coca in Ecuador was not extensive for several reasons, including the criminal penalties imposed, ongoing monitoring of high-risk areas by the armed forces and police and alternative development programmes undertaken as a preventive measure.

16. In closing, he called on the international community to uphold the principle of shared responsibility for drug control and for recognition of the commitment of many nations to combat that type of illicit activity.

17. **Ms. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that her Government supported enhanced international cooperation to combat organized crime, corruption and trafficking. Because those problems were closely related to levels of social and economic development, measures to address them should be taken into account in sustainable development policy.

18. Ukraine welcomed the priority given to the universal ratification of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and to activities under the Convention against Corruption, which were of particular importance to her Government. Efforts to improve the financial management and governance of UNODC were also welcome.

19. Ukraine reiterated its strong support for the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. While taking into account existing regional and other initiatives, a comprehensive and concerted international response was needed.

20. Problems related to illicit drugs remained a major concern to her country. The links between the spread of

HIV/AIDS and illicit drug use must be underlined, and, in that context, programmes for drug demand reduction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation played a crucial role. It was important to streamline the global response to AIDS, in particular within the multilateral system. Close cooperation was needed among all agencies of the United Nations system concerned with health-related drug policy, while respecting each organization's role and mandate. More effective collaboration was also needed between countries of origin, transit and destination, taking into account such new forms of crime as cybercrime.

21. Lastly, she drew attention to the problem of maritime piracy, which was no longer a local problem. Ukraine strongly supported the elaboration of uniform, clear rules to fight pirates and protect sailors from that danger, which threatened all countries.

22. **Mr. Puri** (India) said that terrorism undermined peace, democracy and freedom, endangering the international community and humanity as a whole. India, which had suffered terrorist attacks for decades, including the recent Mumbai attack of November 2008 and an attack on its embassy in Afghanistan earlier that day, believed that while it was important for the international community to condemn such attacks unequivocally, it was also critical to strengthen the legal framework in the fight against terrorism. It was time to continue and conclude the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation also expressed concern at the nexus between drug mafias, arms dealers and money-laundering for the financing of terrorism, and supported efforts by UNODC to assist countries in putting into place appropriate counter-terrorism legislation.

23. The international community must build on the reported reduction in the cultivation of drug crops and the global decline in demand for illicit drugs. Long-term national and international political and financial commitment to alternative development programmes and supply reduction strategies were the cornerstone of efforts in that area. India also supported the strengthening of South-South cooperation through sharing of best practices, lessons learned and technical assistance.

24. As one of the world's largest producers of licit opium, India pursued balanced drug control measures to ensure that supply and demand for genuine medical and scientific purposes was maintained without proliferation of manufacturing. It welcomed the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring that balance.

25. India had enacted strong domestic legislation to combat money-laundering and had entered into bilateral agreements with several countries to develop joint programmes on money-laundering, counter-terrorism and organized crime. Such problems of a transnational nature and global magnitude could only be dealt with at the regional and international level, and India remained committed to working towards a world free of those scourges.

26. **Ms. Ivanovic** (Republic of Serbia) said that her Government had adopted national strategies against organized crime, illicit drugs and illegal migrations during 2009. Given the cross-border nature of many forms of organized crime, efforts to combat them could not succeed without good regional and international cooperation. Accordingly, Serbia had developed various forms of cooperation with UNODC, regional organizations, Europol and INTERPOL. It had recently signed a Cooperation Protocol with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo for the exchange of information on trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons and on organized crime and terrorism.

27. The joint programme on human trafficking, conducted by UNODC, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), represented the country's first integrated and comprehensive framework for combating human trafficking, based on prevention, prosecution and protection. An investigation into serious allegations of trafficking in persons for the purpose of harvesting human organs in Kosovo province and northern Albania was also being conducted in conjunction with the Council of Europe. The joint efforts by the United Nations and the Council of Europe to address the issue of trafficking in human organs were to be commended.

28. **Mr. Gonsalves** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that the importance of the issues of crime prevention and criminal justice and international drug control could not be overstated. Until very recently, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had been an agriculture-based economy, relying primarily on banana exports to the United Kingdom. However, in the face of challenges from other banana interests and

the United States of America, its preferential access to that market was fast disappearing and it was producing less than half the amount of bananas grown only 10 years earlier.

29. The resulting unemployment, increased rural poverty and sudden social dislocation had presented a number of difficult challenges. One of those was an increase in marijuana cultivation in the interior of the country, where producers destroyed old-growth rain forest to cultivate hundreds of acres of cannabis. The country had become one of the Caribbean's major marijuana producers. Drug production had morphed into an elaborate criminal enterprise, orchestrated by heavily armed drug barons and gangs. The drug trade was the most pressing and immediate threat to the security of the Caribbean, with the southern Caribbean increasingly utilized as a trans-shipment point between Latin American producers and North American consumers.

30. The 32 islands making up Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were patrolled by a mere handful of coast guard vessels, and its justice system was crowded with drug-related criminals. Further, heavily armed drug gangs often outnumbered law enforcement, undermining the State's legitimate monopoly on coercive force and threatening its very foundation. The drug trade was a very real threat to the region's growth and development.

31. His delegation therefore wished to register its alarm and dismay at the closure of the UNODC Caribbean Field Office, which it considered nothing less than an abandonment of the region. In its annual report, UNODC had recognized the high rate of crime and violence related to drug trafficking in the region, making it all the more baffling that it had closed its only field office.

32. While welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/64/120), his delegation rejected the recommendation to support the reconfiguration of the network of field offices if that was a euphemism for closure of the Caribbean office. While it was fully aware of the budgetary constraints, it was inconceivable that the abandonment of the Caribbean could form part of the solution to the current financial difficulties or the wider battle against the world drug problem. The Caribbean deserved and demanded a meaningful, measurable and tangible engagement in the region, for which a physical presence was necessary.

33. **Mr. Giade** (Nigeria) said that drug trafficking was one of the most worrying aspects of organized crime. West Africa was fast becoming a transit point for the illicit drug trade, with a negative impact on national health, security and development. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had adopted the West African Action Plan on Drugs in December 2008, which had received support from the Security Council, the European Union and other United Nations agencies.

34. In Nigeria, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had been given the mandate to combat criminal activity associated with illicit drugs. It took a dual approach to control of both supply and demand. Supply control dealt with investigation, arrest and prosecution of drug traffickers and measures to remove drugs from circulation, through destruction of illicit crops and seized drugs. Demand control, on the other hand, dealt with drug eradication through enlightenment programmes aimed at making the public understand the consequences of illegal drug use and trade and the importance of cooperating with the Agency in combating trafficking.

35. The Agency had made remarkable progress in the past year through stepped-up surveillance of borders, seaports and airports to close off channels for narcotics smuggling and in prosecution of drug offenders. Substantial effort had been made to uncover their foreign collaborators. Although it still faced many challenges, it remained committed to the goal of ridding the country and the West African subregion of the menace of drug trafficking. The Government was also committed to strengthening ties with its development partners and the international community and would work closely with regional organizations. It had also taken steps to strengthen cooperation in that area with the United Kingdom, South Africa and China.

36. Lastly, Nigeria had strongly supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/196, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", and urged the General Assembly to make more resources available to the Institute from the regular budget to enable it to deliver on its mandate.

37. **Mr. Al-Mazrouei** (United Arab Emirates) said that his Government was doing its part to address the inter-related phenomena of transnational organized crime, particularly human trafficking, money-laundering and drug trafficking, through national strategies, bilateral partnerships and international cooperation, as demonstrated by its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional protocol against trafficking in persons. It had also contributed $15 million to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

38. At the national level, a comprehensive strategy to counter-trafficking had been devised around the four pillars of criminalization, law enforcement, victim support and international cooperation. Moreover, his Government had established the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, whose tasks included developing relevant legislation, extending assistance and protection to victims and raising awareness of the issue. Bilateral agreements on human trafficking had also been concluded with labour-exporting countries.

39. In 2000, his Government had established the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering, and the system put in place to regulate hawala transfers had enabled the State to curb money-laundering operations and terrorism financing activities significantly.

40. With regard to anti-drug efforts, the United Arab Emirates had acceded to the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as to all other relevant international instruments. His Government had also signed memorandums of understanding with 21 countries and was a member of regional organizations established to combat financial crimes such as the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF).

41. Given its proximity to the chief drug-producing countries, the United Arab Emirates was considered a transit country, and the national authorities imposed stringent penalties on those found guilty of involvement in such operations. At the domestic level, a national plan on drug demand reduction had led to fewer drug-related deaths and passage of laws stipulating the establishment of treatment centres and conversion of prisons to penal and rehabilitation institutions.

42. **Ms. Sahussarungsi** (Thailand) said that her Government was firmly committed to promoting and protecting human rights as well as ensuring justice for all, including those within the correctional system. While poverty could not be a pretext for impunity before the law, her Government recognized that policies must address all aspects of crime, including its root causes. Therefore, the aim of Government policy was not to punish criminals as a form of social vengeance but to mitigate social factors like poverty, despair and social exclusion that led to criminality. One government initiative sought to improve the situation of women and their children in prison by providing vital services such as health care, education and childcare and working to reduce violence against women within prison settings. It was hoped that women prisoners would become productive members of society when released from prison as a result of the initiative.

43. The 1955 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners could no longer accommodate the specific needs of women in a rapidly changing world, and her delegation planned to draft a supplementary set of rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders, which she hoped would be adopted by consensus.

44. As poverty was also among the root causes of drug-related crime and violence, numerous initiatives addressed the drug problem by promoting alternative development projects in Thailand and throughout the region. The United Nations could play an important role in convincing developed countries to open their markets to developing countries' alternative development products, which were aimed at fostering socio-economic self-reliance in poor and vulnerable communities. Thailand also stood ready to cooperate with the Asian Development Bank in rendering financial and technical assistance to countries interested in alternative development. At the regional level, her country was committed to working towards making the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region drug-free by 2015.

45. Thailand was of the view that drug addicts were victims, not criminals, and as such, they must receive adequate health care and support. The Government's universal health-care policy and its preventive campaign to raise social awareness on drug use reflected that view.

46. **Mr. Nazarian** (Armenia) said that as a country located in proximity to trafficking routes, Armenia was working to strengthen its capacities to combat drug trafficking. A signatory to the three main international conventions on drug control, his Government had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and had incorporated the provisions of those conventions into its national legislation. Furthermore, a national programme on combating drug addiction and trafficking was being elaborated.

47. In recent years, State anti-drug policy had shifted from a severe punitive approach to one informed by more liberal and balanced principles, as shown by its support for ongoing rehabilitation and treatment for drug addicts, for example.

48. Recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation in combating the world drug problem, his Government had been cooperating closely with its partners, such as the United States Government, on building its technical capacities. Another example of successful cooperation was the South Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme. Funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, it had encouraged the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to adopt European Union standards in five key areas, namely, legal assistance, drug epidemiology, prevention of drug use, treatment for drug addicts and reinforcement of regional law enforcement cooperation. Two new laws concerning decriminalization of certain categories of offences had been drafted as a result of the Programme's support of Government efforts in the area of drug control. Given the effectiveness of the Programme, he expressed the hope that the European Union, UNDP and other partners would continue to support it.

49. **Mr. Al-Shami** (Yemen) said that Yemen had acceded to a number of relevant conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and had also been among the first countries to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003. In addition, his Government had established the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, the body currently responsible for coordinating national anti-corruption strategies.

50. Yemen had acceded to a number of international anti-drug conventions, and its National Directorate for Drug Control was responsible for coordinating regional and international cooperation efforts on the issue. Furthermore, his Government had been successful in hindering attempts by smugglers to use Yemen as a crossing point for illegal drugs en route to neighbouring countries.

51. Human trafficking constituted a flagrant violation of human rights and dignity, and Yemen had therefore ratified a number of relevant international conventions and protocols. Human trafficking had also been defined as a criminal offence punishable under Yemeni law. Other Government efforts to combat human trafficking included awareness-raising campaigns and regional cooperation. It was necessary to tackle its root causes, which included hunger, unemployment and warfare, and to provide protection to victims and facilitate their reintegration into society.

52. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) said that, in the post-conflict period, Sierra Leone was still grappling with economic and social tensions exacerbated by the rise in cross-border criminal activities. Transnational organized crime in West Africa was likely to result in a higher incidence of corruption of law enforcement agents, undermining the rule of law.

53. While its resources for crime prevention were limited, Sierra Leone had demonstrated its commitment to global efforts to combat transnational organized crime, enacting legislation on money-laundering, drug abuse and human trafficking and establishing a national commission on drug control. In addition, a community arms collection programme had been launched in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, with the aim of preventing crimes that normally occurred in post-conflict situations. As part of its peace consolidation efforts, the Government, in collaboration with the British Department for International Development, the Commonwealth and bilateral partners, had undertaken security and judicial sector reform.

54. Sierra Leone had ratified the new ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and it was working to implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms.

55. **Mr. Adam** (Maldives) said that having a tourism-driven economy and a high degree of internal migration made his country highly vulnerable to the drug trade. Although the Maldives did not produce,

cultivate or manufacture drugs, it had been used as a point for the illegal shipment of precursor chemicals and large quantities of drugs destined for other countries. Moreover, the number of drug abuse cases had been rising steadily since 1993, when the first case had been detected.

56. To address those issues, the Maldives had launched a drug control master plan and a national campaign that emphasized the importance of providing community support for addicts. The global fight against illicit narcotics should remain focused on protecting human security through enhanced public health. Highlighting the importance of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into society of drug abusers, rather than treating them as criminals, was a way to bring about such a shift.

57. As a developing State with extremely limited resources, the Maldives highly appreciated the successes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime over the previous 60 years. Taking note of the Office's long-standing engagement with his Government, he reiterated the significance of pooling better resources and building the capacity of small developing States in order to ensure that the fight against drugs was effective.

58. **Mr. Migliore** (Holy See), noting with serious concern the rise in production and consumption of illicit drugs in areas that had previously had low rates of drug abuse, said that the overall health of the individual must be at the centre of drug-control efforts. However, addressing the health needs of individuals would prove insufficient without also addressing the various factors that led to the production and consumption of illicit drugs. For instance, developing countries afflicted by poverty were particularly vulnerable to the devastating trickle-down effects of the drug trade, as they served as easy trafficking points or inexpensive cultivators of source crops. Development projects that provided farming families with real alternatives to the coca and poppy crops must therefore continue to be supported at the national, regional and international levels, and the causal relationship between increasing development and eradication of the drug trade must be emphasized.

59. As the causes and consequences of dependence on psychotropic substances were related to family dynamics, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts should focus on family relationships in all their dimensions, lest the impact of drug use destabilize the family unit and through it, the whole of society.

60. His delegation noted with concern the links between the illicit drug trade and human trafficking, small arms proliferation, organized crime and terrorism, links that demonstrated that substance abuse was not a victimless offence but rather one whose main victims were the poor and vulnerable.

61. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka), noting his country's struggle against terrorism over the previous three decades, said that it was impossible to discuss efforts to combat drug trafficking without addressing such interconnected crimes as international terrorism, money-laundering and human trafficking. The provision of logistical support to terrorist groups continued to pose a threat to maritime security. Sri Lanka had been a victim of unprecedented and dangerous forms of maritime terrorism, and the terrorist group that had been operating on its soil was currently transferring its expertise to international arms smugglers and drug traffickers, hence the urgent need for close international collaboration and intelligence-sharing to combat those crimes. Furthermore, a global consensus must be forged on a comprehensive normative framework for international cooperation and solidarity in combating terrorism within the parameters of international law.

62. It was no longer sufficient to combat trafficking in traditional drugs, as technological advancement had facilitated the development and proliferation of synthetic drugs that were more toxic, easier to transport and smuggle and less costly to manufacture.

63. Poverty reduction and programmes to generate alternative livelihoods would help to address the increase in global crime levels, which had been exacerbated by the current global economic slowdown and the food crisis. The implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should remain the legal and institutional cornerstone of global efforts against trafficking and human smuggling.

64. **Mr. Monterrey Suay** (El Salvador) said that his delegation agreed that a decisive factor in combating drug trafficking was an effective criminal justice system, which included the strengthening of the rule of law and judicial cooperation among States. His country, like others in Central America, was affected by the relationship among drugs, violence and

transnational organized crime. El Salvador took an integrated approach to the problem, implementing education and prevention programmes while strengthening the capacity of law enforcement. It had shown leadership in the region by becoming party to the international agreements that sought to reduce demand and supply of illicit drugs and had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with 12 countries of Latin America. In addition, the President of El Salvador had joined with the Presidents of the countries of Central America and Mexico in adopting a security strategy for the region.

65. Drug abuse had serious consequences for the health and development of individuals and communities, which extended to related criminal activity. He particularly wished to draw attention to the problem of drug gangs, which had taken on a dimension of organized crime that threatened the security of its citizens. The Government had taken an approach to gangs that included prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into society, requiring collective action and international cooperation. His delegation therefore called for strengthened multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation as an essential tool in combating drug trafficking.

66. **Mr. Koh** Sang-wook (Republic of Korea) said that strengthened international cooperation and cooperation with civil society were two indispensable elements of a new approach to drug-related transnational crime. One negative side effect of improved transportation networks and expansion of the Internet was its misuse as a channel to facilitate the cross-border movement of illegal drugs. Enhanced information-sharing on drug control efforts among countries' law enforcement agencies must play a central role in cooperation. His Government was participating in real-time sharing of intelligence on illicit drugs with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. It had also developed an electronic certificate system in 2007 that allowed the authorities instantly to validate drug import and export certificates over the Internet. Expansion of that system would help to control the movement of drugs worldwide. Technical assistance from INCB and UNODC had been essential, and his Government was also sharing investigation techniques and tools within its region. The Korean Institute of Criminology had developed a Virtual Forum against Cyber Crime to provide practical support to law enforcement and other Government agencies.

67. The need for a stronger partnership with civil society was illustrated by the recent focus on the human rights of drug addicts, victims of drug-related crime and even drug offenders. States had developed drug control policies emphasizing treatment, protection and rehabilitation. Globally, there was a movement in criminal justice from retributive justice to restorative justice, and States had devoted more effort to developing alternatives to imprisonment, such as vocational programmes. The focus was less on how to punish drug offenders than on how to reintegrate them into society. Designing appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programmes to meet the needs of individuals could not be accomplished by the Government or international organizations alone, but required the participation of civil society.

68. **Mr. Abdul Momen** (Bangladesh) said that despite having limited resources, his Government was committed to addressing the drug problem, as demonstrated by its accession to the three major anti-drug conventions, efforts by law enforcement agencies to apprehend drug traffickers and bring them to justice and the imposition of strict penalties for drug offenders.

69. With regard to crime prevention, reform of the criminal justice system and ensuring that the poor had affordable access to it were crucial policy priorities for his Government. The separation of the judiciary and executive branches of Government was one of the important reforms that had been introduced, and others were under way. Given the difficulty of securing the country's long, porous borders, cooperation with neighbouring countries to curb cross-border crime was also essential.

70. Turning to corruption, he noted the existence of a functioning anti-corruption commission. Relevant international agencies and development partners were supporting Government efforts to combat money-laundering. Nevertheless, asset recovery remained a major challenge for Bangladesh, one that would require the particular support of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

71. Bangladesh remained resolute in its campaign against international terrorism. In addition to having ratified all United Nations anti-terrorism conventions, it had enacted domestic anti-terrorism legislation and

continued to fulfil its reporting obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. It would also be hosting a regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism in November 2009.

72. His Government was acting to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and assist and protect victims and potential targets, in addition to raising public awareness of the issue, a task also carried out commendably by NGOs. Bangladesh had also taken the lead in calling for concerted action against human trafficking at the regional level at the recent summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

73. **Mr. Dall'oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that despite the increasing international attention being given to human trafficking as a human rights issue, there remained over 12 million victims of forced labour, bonded labour and commercial sexual servitude at any given time. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) had intensified its efforts in the previous two years, continuing to support States and civil society in the areas of prevention, prosecution and protection. The dissemination of the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in several languages was another major achievement.

74. The crime of human smuggling also merited international attention, as the massive so-called "mixed flows" of economic migrants, victims of trafficking and refugees embarking daily on the risky path of irregular migration offered by smugglers were in need of basic international legal protection and assistance. IOM had been working closely with partners on addressing the gaps in those areas. Trafficking and smuggling could better be contrasted through more transparent and regular migration channels that would bring informal and unregulated work activities under a regulated labour regime.

75. Given that Africa was one of the continents of origin for many victims of trafficking and smuggling, IOM, with the support of the Government of Tanzania, had set up the African Capacity Building Centre in the northern Tanzanian town of Moshi in order to assist African States in scaling up their migration management capacities.

76. **Mr. Masambasita** (United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders) said that nearly a fourth of the countries in the African region had already made their financial contributions to the Institute for the 2008-2009 biennium, a modest gain that indicated that member States were responding to the call issued in General Assembly resolution 63/196 to meet their financial obligations to the Institute.

77. While there had been some improvement in the collection of financial contributions by member States, the amount was still insufficient to cover the deficit created by the discrepancy between the United Nations biennial subsidy for professionals and their actual salary. Seized of the matter, the Administrative Council called upon the Secretary-General to make additional regular budget funds available to the Institute. Lastly, noting the need to promote the Institute's capacity to provide greater technical assistance to member States in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, he relayed to the Third and Fifth Committees its request for additional financial support, as cited in paragraph 56 of the Secretary-General's report.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.